

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-11, 14, 15, 19, and 20. The originally-filed application fully supports the amendments to claims 1-11, 14, 15, 19, and 20. No new matter is introduced. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 remain pending and under current examination.

The Examiner (1) discussed the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on February 9, 2005; (2) discussed claim terminology; (3) objected to claims 8, 9, 11, 15, and 20 due to informalities; (4) rejected claims 4, 6-8, 14, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; and (5) rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,552,995 to Sebastian ("Sebastian").

The Examiner stated that an IDS Applicant submitted on February 9, 2005 contained only one page but was labeled as "page 1 of 2." Applicant presumes that the Examiner was referring the PTO/SB/08 form submitted concurrently with the IDS but not the IDS. The PTO/SB/08 form was mistakenly labeled as "sheet 1 of 2." Applicant affirms that the PTO/SB/08 form contained only one page.

The Examiner contended that the claim terminology differs from the usual terms used in the field of Computer Aided Design (CAD). Office Action, p. 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in order to advance the prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims to include different terms used in the art, as defined in the specification, e.g., a database, a control section, etc.

The Examiner objected to claims 8, 9, 11, 15, and 20 due to informalities. Applicant has amended these claims to improve clarity and provide an appropriate antecedent basis. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 8, 9, 11, 15, and 20.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Particularly, the Examiner alleged that claim 4 is vague and indefinite because of the use of word “should” in the claim language. In order to advance the prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 4 to delete the word “should.” Applicant submits that amended claim 4 is definite, and requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 4.

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 8, 14, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In order to advance the prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 8, 14, and 19 to more clearly recite the claimed invention. Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 6, 7, 8, 14, and 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Sebastian (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,995) (“Sebastian”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least for the following reasons:

In order to establish anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every feature as set forth in the claims must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131. Sebastian does not disclose each and every feature of the claims.

Claim 1 recites a design support system including, among others, the following features:

- a database which divides a history of design work for creating a shape model for each part of the shape model and holds a plurality of design work histories as unit work history data; and

- a control section configured to:

- fetch at least two unit work history data selected from the plurality of unit work history data held by the database; and

- combine the at least two selected unit work history data and output design work data for creating a combined shape model which is formed by joining part shape models corresponding to the respective unit work history data.

Applicant submits that Sebastian fails to disclose at least the “database” and the “control section” recited in claim 1. The Office Action cited a “template scheme” of Sebastian as an alleged disclosure of the claimed “database.” Office Action, p. 6. Applicant submits that Sebastian does not disclose, however, that the template scheme “divides a history of design work for creating a shape model for each part of the shape model and holds a plurality of design work histories as unit work history data,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Sebastian does not disclose “a database which divides a history of design work for creating a shape model for each part of the shape model and holds a plurality of design work histories as unit work history data,” as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Sebastian fails to disclose the “control section” recited in claim 1. The Office Action cited a “feature template” disclosed in col. 12, lines 3-11 of Sebastian. *See* Office Action, p. 6. The “feature template” disclosed in Sebastian is designed to provide a uniform data handling mechanism that spans the domain of part, tooling, process and material. *See* Sebastian, col. 11, lines 32-33. Applicant submits that Sebastian’s “feature template” is not related to the “unit work history data” recited in claim 1. Moreover, Sebastian does not disclose a control section configured to “fetch at least two unit work history data . . . and combine the at least two selected unit work history data . . . ,” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, at least due to the absence of the above claim features from the disclosure of Sebastian, Sebastian does not anticipate claim 1. Claim 1 therefore is allowable over Sebastian. Independent claims 2, 7, 9, and 11 recite similar “database” and/or “control section” elements which are not disclosed in Sebastian. Therefore, claims 2, 7, 9, and 11 are also allowable over Sebastian. Dependent claims 3-6, 8, and 10 are allowable at least because of their dependence from independent claims 1, 2, 7, and 9, respectively.

Claims 12-15 each recite a design support method including steps of dealing with “design work histories,” “histories of design work,” and/or “work history data,” which are not disclosed in Sebastian. For example, Sebastian does not disclose “a series of design work histories is held in multiple quantities as work history data in a database . . . , at least two selected work history data are fetched from the held multiple work history data . . . , and design work data for creating a one-piece shape model by combining the at least two fetched work history data and connecting part shape models corresponding to the respective work history data is output,” as recited in claim 12. Applicant submits that Sebastian fails to disclose each and every feature of each of the claims 12-15. Therefore, independent claims 12-15 are allowable over Sebastian. Claim 16 depends from claim 15, and thus is also allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 15.

Claims 17-20 each recite a recording medium storing a design support program and being computer-readable, wherein the design support program comprises one or more modules configured to deal with “design work histories,” “histories of design work,” and/or “work history data,” which are not disclosed in Sebastian. Applicant submits that Sebastian fails to disclose each and every feature of each of claims 17-20. Therefore, claims 17-20 are allowable over Sebastian. Claim 21 is also allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 20.

For at least the reasons presented above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-21.

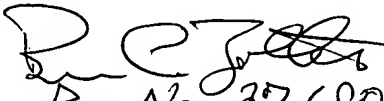

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are not anticipated by the cited reference. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-21.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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